GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1108
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2017
Debt Ridden Farmers
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of debt ridden farmers during the last three years and current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether per farmer debt burden is higher than the average annual per capita income in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for rise in the indebtedness of farmers;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has reported about irregularities in agricultural debt waiver scheme in various Public Sector Banks (PSBs);and

(f) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise and the details of action taken/being taken against such banks?

Answer

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance

(a) to (d) The data on agricultural loans outstanding for the last three years are given below:-

(No. of accounts in lakh & Amount in Rs. Crores)

As on 31.03.2015		As on 31.03.2016*		As on 31.03.2017*	
No. of A/cs	Loan O/s	No. of A/cs	Loan O/s	No. of A/cs	Loan O/s
1,108.83	11,85,825.69	1,158.90	12,59,144.45	1,209.62	14,36,799.48

*Provisional
Source : NABARD

As per the provisional estimates of Annual National Income 2016-17 released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the per capita income at current prices during 2016-17 is estimated to be at the level of Rs. 1,03,219. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households during NSS 70th round (January, 2013- December 2013) in the rural areas of the country for the reference period of the agricultural year July 2012- June 2013. Based on the results of the survey, estimated average amount of outstanding loan per agricultural household as on date of the Survey was Rs. 47,000/-.

(e) & (f): The Performance Audit of the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 was carried out by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) from April, 2011 to March, 2012 which reported various errors of inclusion and exclusion at the beneficiary level.

Based on the feedback during Exit Conference with CAG on 7.12.2012, the Government on 11.01.2013 directed all lending institutions to take immediate corrective action and re-verify all the claims under the Scheme. The lending institutions conducted the re-verification exercise, and a recovery of Rs. 627.68 crore has been effected in cases involving grant of benefits to ineligible beneficiaries, extension of excess benefits, claim of inadmissible charges/interest or for claims being outside the purview of the Scheme. Disciplinary action has been initiated/taken against the concerned staff by the lending institutions. Responsibility of auditors have been fixed accordingly by the lending institutions and FIRs were filed relating to cases of tampering of records.